The Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Act was passed by the 2009 Legislature to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive aquatic species into Montana's waters. The original act required the Departments of Agriculture (MDA) and Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) to enter into cooperative agreements to perform their respective tasks and to work cooperatively.

The 2011 Legislature revised the act (HB 621), and among other changes added the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) to the list of coordinating agencies. HB 621 also appropriated general fund for the general responsibilities of the agencies in the act:
- o Enter into cooperative agreements with each other
- o Identify and prioritize threats
- o Provide public awareness and education
- o Provide prevention and detection of invasive species, including the use of invasive species management areas
- o Manage, control, and restore infested areas
- o Provide emergency response

The figure below shows the appropriation in HB 621 from the 2011 session and anticipated expenditures for the 2013 biennium, as well as the executive request for the 2015 biennium in HB 2. During the interim the executive transferred funding among agencies and the 2015 biennium requests reflect the amounts estimated to be expended by the departments.

AIS Funding			
	2013 Biennium	2013 Biennium	2015 Biennium
	HB 621 Approp	Est. expenditures	HB 2 Requests
MDA	$558,000	$279,750	$280,000
FWP	150,000	618,250	618,250
DNRC	190,000	0	0
Total	$898,000	$898,000	$898,250

The MDA has chosen to focus on Eurasian watermilfoil, while the FWP is concentrated on quagga mussels, and other non-plant based AIS.

2013 Session

HB 2, Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Fisheries Division

PL 303 - Aquatic Invasive Species AIS - The executive requests general fund each year of the biennium for continuation of the aquatic invasive species (AIS) work including multi-agency coordination and the watercraft inspection program. General fund would support seasonal staff and operations allocated to implement the statewide watercraft inspection station program. $618,250 GF OTO for the 2015 Biennium.

HB 2, Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Sciences Division

NP 3003 - Eurasian Watermilfoil Containment/Control -OTO/RST – The executive requests 4.75 seasonal temporary FTE and one-time-only/restricted general fund each year of the 2015 biennium to continue activities associated with management of aquatic invasive plants through prevention, identification, and response. The department would focus a survey of waterways, watercraft inspection stations, outreach and education, management areas, and response to invasive plant detections. $280,000 GF OTO/RST for the 2015 Biennium.

HB 6, Renewable Resource Grants & Loans Program (DNRC)

RRGL Project #40 – DNRC, Flathead Basin Commission. Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Project. $100,000 grant recommendation.

HB 7, Reclamation and Development Grant Program (DNRC)

Section 1 (b) appropriates "$525,000 to implement measures to control invasive aquatic species in state waters;"

HB 160, Statutory appropriation into the Aquatic Invasive Species Account (Dept of Ag)

Section 1 "The amount of $898,000 is transferred from the state general fund to the invasive species account provided for in 80-7-1004 in each biennium." Section 3 distributes the $898k to two agencies as follows: $280,000 to the Dept of Ag; and $618,000 to FWP.

Aquatic Invasive Species Bills (partial)					
Legislation		Reference	Agency	Biennial Amount	
HB 2		PL 303	FWP	618,250	OTO
HB 2		NP 3003	Ag	280,000	OTO
HB 6	RRGL	Proj #40	DNRC	100,000	OTO
HB 7	RDGP	Section 1	DNRC	525,000	OTO
HB 160		Section 1	Ag/FWP	898,000	ongoing
Subtotal OTO				1,523,250	
Subtotal ongoing				898,000	
Grand total 2015 Biennium				2,421,250	

Note: HB 160 funding split $280k to Ag, $618k to FWP.